

House Republican Press Release

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House Passes Sports Official Assault Bill



HARTFORD –The state House of Representatives passed legislation yesterday afternoon which would create a crime for the assault of a sports official. An individual would be guilty of this crime if they assault a sports official with the intent to cause injury, or intimidate, harass or retaliate against the sports official because of the performance of his duties as a sports

official. Representative Al Adinolfi (R-Cheshire) is a co-sponsor of the measure this year, and introduced similar legislation in the 2005 session.

Under provisions of the bill, it becomes a class D felony, punishable by one to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both. Current law provides for a number of different assault penalties ranging from class A misdemeanor to class B felony depending on the severity of harm, and circumstances surrounding the crime.

“It seems that every year we hear of some new instance of a sports official for high school or other organized sports being attacked by an angry parent or spectator,” said Adinolfi. “Such outbursts and attacks are no civilized way to react to a bad call by a referee or umpire, and set a poor example for the student athletes who participate in these sporting events. By passing this bill, we are setting severe penalties for people who assault sports officials, most of whom volunteer their time and effort to organized youth sports.”

The bill, ***HB 5786, An Act Concerning Assault of a Sports Official*** passed the House on a vote of 141-3. It now heads to the state Senate for action there.